



CITY OF CHICAGO



BOARD OF ETHICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CONTACT:
BOARD OF ETHICS
312-744-9660**

The Board of Ethics today issued the following statement, in response to criticism of its determination in Case No. 21019.L, involving unregistered lobbying activity:

The Board’s interpretation and application of the City’s lobbying laws as to communications similar to those made in this matter have been consistent—and quite public—for years. Should those laws be amended to cover only those individuals specifically paid to engage in lobbying activities, the Board would enforce any such amended laws as written. Lobbying laws, in particular, Chicago’s, are about transparency, and informing the public about who is trying to influence government decisions and actions—not about stifling or thwarting communication between City officials and members of the business or non-profit community. Rather than have a “chilling effect,” all one needs to do is register, and then, as required in the annual registration and quarterly activity reports, tell the public about the contact and lobbying activity. That is not chilling—it’s just good government.